

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 09158 091033Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /075 W

----- 052039

O 091010Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6819

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 9158

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: UPI DISPATCH ON KHMER NAVY GUNBOAT

REF: SECSTATE 146450

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CHECKED OUT UPI STORY QUOTED IN REFTEL WITH KHMER NAVY (MNK) AUTHORITIES WHO ASSERT THAT IT IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THESE SOURCES POINT OUT THAT NO RPT NO MNK VESSEL HAS BEEN FIRED UPON, DAMAGED OR SUNK AT MEKONG RIVER LOCATION OR IN TIME FRAME (SATURDAY, JULY 6) DESCRIBED IN UPI DISPATCH. MOST RECENT VESSEL TO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES ON THAT STRETCH OF MEKONG WAS SMALL CARGO CRAFT WHICH WAS SWAMPED BY WAKE OF LARGER VESSELS IN JUNE 30 UP-RIVER CONVOY.

2. MNK SOURCES NOTE THAT MNK CONVOY CARRYING FOODSTUFFS CAME DOWN TONLE SAP RIVER FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TO PHNOM PENH ON JULY 6, MANY MILES TO THE NORTH OF INCIDENT DESCRIBED IN UPI DISPATCH, BUT NO VESSELS WERE SUNK. ONLY INCIDENT WHICH COULD EVEN REMOTELY BE CONFUSED WITH THAT DESCRIBED IN UPI DISPATCH WAS THE SINKING OF AN EMPTY MNK LANDING CRAFT JUST SOUTH OF PEAM LOVEK ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER ON JULY 5.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PHNOM 09158 091033Z

3. FOREGOING ACCORDS WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT

MNK CONVOY MOVEMENTS ON MEKONG AND TONLE SAP RIVERS.
WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OTHER INFORMATION, FURTHERMORE,
WHICH WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO THE UPI DISPATCH.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER INSTANCE, OF WHICH THERE
HAVE BEEN TOO MANY EXAMPLES RECENTLY, OF UPI GOING OFF
HALF-COCKED AND FILING A SEMI-SENSATIONAL STORY THAT
LACKS ANY BASIS IN FACT. PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO TAKE
CORRECTIVE ACTION BY INFORMING HEAD OFFICE OF UPI THAT
IT COULD IMPROVE ITS REPUTATION FOR CREDIBILITY IF IT
WOULD DOUBLE-CHECK ANY STORY RECEIVED FROM PHNOM PENH
BEFORE PUTTING IT OUT ON ITS WIRE.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SMUGGLING, NAVAL SHIPS, FOODS, SHIP ACCIDENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM09158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-1135
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740765/aaaacdjk.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SECSTATE 146450
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPI DISPATCH ON KHMER NAVY GUNBOAT
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005